

VZCZCXRO6331
OO RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHDIR
DE RUEHAD #0329/01 0911235
ZNY CCCCC ZZB
O 011235Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2314
INFO RUEH2M/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RHFISS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0129
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0898

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000329

SIPDIS

FOR S/SECC TODD STERN AND DSECC JONATHAN PERSHING
ALSO FOR NEA/ARP AND EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR (MONOSSON, SECOR, THOMPSON), AND
S/SRAP HOLBROKE
AMMAN FOR ESTH HUB OFFICER (BHALLA)

E.O. 12958 03/24/2019
TAGS SENV, ECON, PREL, PGOV, AE
SUBJECT: (U) WHY THE UAE IS PRESSING FOR IRENA HQ
CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR RICHARD G. OLSON FOR REASONS 1.4 B AND D
REFS: A) ABU DHABI 301 B) ABU DHABI 199 C) ABU DHABI 170 D) STATE 27497

11. (C) Summary. The UAE's push (refs A-C) to host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) complements its political and economic goals. The UAE has actively campaigned to host the headquarters in Abu Dhabi. Though the argument that the UAE is well-positioned to host IRENA is valid, the most prominent example of UAE commitment is Masdar (www.masdar.ae), the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, which was launched in 2005. The UAE wants Masdar City to be the host of IRENA, but its argument is based on more than just Masdar's credentials. Officials note that the USG can support the IRENA candidacy of the UAE ultimately depends on USG policy toward IRENA itself, and we do not have a clear answer. First: The UAE, unlike many supporters of renewables, has serious resources to put into the development of technology. This is a point that the USG can use to its advantage. Second: The UAE has been one of our most helpful security partners in the Middle East. UAE troops are in the fight in Afghanistan (in greater numbers than any other country) and has not expressed any direct linkage between any of these initiatives and IRENA, it has clearly signaled that, having been helpful to the USG and the USG's interests, the USG should support the UAE's bid for IRENA. 16. (C) UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (AbZ) will raise this issue with Secretary Clinton during their 7 April meeting. OLSC